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EMPLOYEES' NEWS BULLETIN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF PERSONNEL

Division of Personnel Relations and Safety

January 10, 1945

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

No. 11

NEW PAY SYSTEM

By now you have all heard about the deferred pay day system which begins this month. Semi-monthly pay periods will end the 15th and last day of each month but pay days will not correspond to these dates. Between Dec. 29 and May 9 pay days will be staggered so that beginning on May 9 there will be a nine day elapse of time between the date you receive your check and the last day of the period for which you are paid. The new system, which is required by the Bureau of the Budget, will solve major problems encountered. Pay days are as follows: Jan. 15, Feb. 1, 17, Mar. 5, 21, April 7, 23, May 9. Thereafter you will receive your check on the 9th and 24th of each month. On Jan. 15, your check will be larger than usual as it will be for a 17 day period.

To prevent temporary financial distress for new employees between the time of appointment and the first pay day, special pay rolls may be prepared. The Treasury has agreed to give 24 hour service on pay checks, in emergency cases.

tization of the chicken situation in "Where Are the Drumsticks?" Tell the folks at home to listen to your WEA show. You may see the program on the air, from the WRC Studios--Observation Booth, Studio A. 14th and New York Ave. N. W., 12:15 to 12:30 p.m., every Saturday. Make a luncheon date and take it in.



CONSUMER TIME

Have you heard your own War Food Administration program--CONSUMER TIME? Broadcast each Saturday over the N.B.C. coast to coast network. CONSUMER TIME is a dramatic show with Washington actors and it originates here in the studio of WRC.

CONSUMER TIME dramatizes WFA activities and subject of consumer interest. It often tells of homemaking in far-off countries, such as Alaska, England, Australia, Canada. Recently, there have been programs on "Shall I Be a Farmer?", "The Home of Tomorrow", "Preview of 1945 Food Situations" with Keith Himebaugh of OI, "Waste Salvage--Save Every Drop". This Saturday, Jan. 13, CONSUMER TIME will present a drama--

BLOOD DONORS

Have you noticed how the mark on the third test tube on the charts thru-out the Department has risen since the Drive last month? We are very proud of the record Agriculture is establishing. Make that test tube fill up-- Call your bureau key-man or Miss McFadden, ext. 3281 and make an appointment to go to the Blood Donor Center.

CREDIT UNION MEETING

The annual meeting of the Agricultural Employees' Credit Union will be held at 4 p.m., January 15, 1945, in room 6962, South Bldg. At this meeting reports will be presented on the condition and business of the Credit Union, the amount of dividends to be paid will be discussed, and officers elected for the coming year.

IDEAS NEEDED

The News Bulletin has not appeared for the last two months because of a lack of paper; however, the Welfare Asso. has once again secured a supply and we hope to continue publication indefinitely. We are very anxious to dress the Bulletin up and will welcome suggestions from our readers. We wish to develop a masthead and would like to find a less formal name than Employees' News Bulletin. If you have some suggestions for either masthead or title address them to Editor, News Bulletin, P.R.&S., Rm. 529 A.

We also wish to remind you that we are always glad to have articles of interest to U.S.D.A. employees contributed by you.

RED CROSS ACTIVITIES

In the Department there is a Red Cross unit which offers us and our families an excellent opportunity for contributing more to the war effort. Mrs. Havey, the Department Red Cross representative, is located in rm. 139W. and her ext. is 6229. She will be glad to give you more information about and/or enlist your help in any of the following projects.

You may obtain materials from Mrs. Havey for knitting or sewing for the Army or Navy. A surgical dressing group meets Tuesdays and Fridays from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in rm. 505 Adm. Bldg. Realizing that surgical dressings are more urgently needed than ever before, a group of men who are Department officials have joined the ladies in this valuable activity.

You may sign up for the home nursing course, given in the Emergency Room in the evenings. It's also fun to make scrap books of jokes and cartoons for convalescents. It's easy to bring containers, old trays, etc. to be used in rehabilitation work. Put your clean old clothes back into circulation by giving them to foreign relief. Agencies collect clothing from Mrs. Havey's desk.

You might think you're doing all you can, but read this again and see if you can't contribute to at least one of these projects.

CONTACT OFFICERS

Miss Angelca Kaisell, ext. 3171, rm.

3633 is contact officer for C. C. C.

Miss Estevah Webb, x. 5532, rm. 4334 is contact officer for F. S. A.

"RETIREMENT IN BRIEF"

One day, all of us who have worked long enough will be interested in retiring. At that time, we will be very much interested in the amount of annuity we will receive, so we'll know how comfortable retired life will be. All this is to get around to the point that there is a small pamphlet on retirement available in your personnel office. This is entitled "Retirement in Brief," and will give you a picture of retirement and how it operates.

DISCUSSION GROUPS

The Public Library is sponsoring reading and discussion groups which are open to a limited number of people free of charge. The groups which will meet January thru March are as follows: Tragedy and Comedy, Wednesday, Central Library, 8th and K. N. W.; Law and Anarchy, Monday, Central Library; History and Technology, Friday, Southeastern Br., 7th and D, S.E.; Free Enterprise and the Common Good, Wednesday, Petworth Br., Georgia and Upshur, N.W.; Constitutional Government, Friday, Mt. Pleasant Br., 16th and Lamont, N.W. All meetings are from 7:30 to 9:30 pm.

Each group will read and discuss six to eight significant books under able leadership. The libraries have made arrangements to have sufficient copies of the books available for use of group members. To become a group member, call Mrs. Steinbarger, Central Library, Na. 6776.

INCOME TAX FORMS are available at the Information Desk in the Patio.

MUSIC

Lin Yutang, Chinese author and philosopher writes in his new book Between Laughter and Tears: "Ultimately the problem of peace is the problem of general education in good manners and music.... the concept of peace is more than the mechanics of keeping good men out of jail and bad men in it: it is related to true manhood and to social and national health, in which music seems best and most natural fruition of culture." It almost seems that the enjoyment of music provides the aim and end and raison d'etre of culture itself."

Washington must be the place of Grand Harmony, for there are very few cities that offer more in the way of good music. The Directory of Recreation in Washington presents an excellent resume of all music activities. Your contact officer has a copy of this directory, and also a copy of Do You Know, in which the most important music events of the season are listed.

DO YOU LIKE TO DANCE?

Quite often the Department receives invitations to send a limited number of hostesses to dances for servicemen. There is usually a charge for each hostess. If you're interested in attending these dances, please register with your contact officer.

BLOOD DONOR KEYMEN

Mr. Ernest C. Neas, ext. 4877, rm. 224W, has been designated blood donor keyman for WFA-Adm. Office.

Miss Angelca Kaisell, ext. 3171 rm. 3633 is keyman for C. C. C.

AMERICAN LEGION--AGRICULTURE POST NO.

Agriculture Post No. 36 has changed its meeting place from the Legion Clubhouse to the New Colonial Hotel at 15th and M Sts., N.W., which is more convenient. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 8:30 p.m.

One hundred two World War II veterans have joined the Post and the Legion extends a special invitation to all veterans of this war to become members. Call Nicholas Pagnotta, Membership Officer, ext. 3034, rm. 1821, or C. E. DeVivo, Commander ext. 6101, rm. 1124, for information.

The post is glad to announce that in the 6th War Loan Drive it exceeded its quota of \$68,000 by \$75,000, reporting a total of \$147,250.

NATIONAL SYMPHONY FORUM

Each Friday night at 8:30 p.m. at Philips Memorial Gallery, 1600 - 21st St., N. W., a National Symphony Forum is held, free of charge. These are particularly interesting discussions which precede the regular Sunday concerts of the National Symphony Orchestra. A guest artist frequently participates in the forum.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES' CONCERT

The National Symphony Orchestra, Hans Kindler, Conductor, will present its first concert of the season for Government employees on Jan. 28. Tickets ranging in price from 60¢ to \$1.80. will be on sale in room 523, Adm. Bldg. Watch bulletin boards for announcements of the program.

THE HOUSING SITUATION

Hotel: From Jan. 17 to 21, inclusive, no hotel reservations are available in the Washington area. It is always difficult to obtain week-end hotel reservations.

Rooms: All types of rooms are available in the Washington area but there is a scarcity of rooms with private baths.

Apartments: Apartment house managers report the smallest turnover in many months. All developments, both Government and privately owned, have long waiting lists.

Houses: Unfurnished houses for rent are rarely available. Furnished houses, usually large ones, are sometimes available. Property for sale is bringing increasingly high prices.

We appreciate the fine cooperation we have received from Department employees in notifying us of housing facilities available. To register a room or to get assistance on housing problems call ext. 3105, rm. 528A.

ST. PAUL SOCIETY DANCES**STATE SOCIETY DANCES**

At the Shoreham, 10 to 1, during January: 10th - N.Y., 13th - W. Va., 20th - Iowa, 24th - Wisc.

At the Wardman-Park, 10 to 1, Jan. 18 - Mass.

At the Willard, 10 to 1, during January: 12th - Va., 26th - Ky.

WALSH CLUB

The Walsh Club at 1523 - 22nd St. N. W., is open from 4 to 11 each day. For membership information, call AL. 8398.